

## *Salvelinus alpinus oquassa* (Arctic Charr)

### Priority 1 Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN)

**Class:** *Actinopterygii* (Ray-finned Fishes)  
**Order:** *Salmoniformes* (Salmon, Trout, And Whitefish)  
**Family:** *Salmonidae* (Salmonids)

**General comments:** none

#### Species Conservation Range Maps for Arctic Charr:

Town Map: [Salvelinus alpinus oquassa\\_Towns.pdf](#)

Subwatershed Map: [Salvelinus alpinus oquassa\\_HUC12.pdf](#)

#### SGCN Priority Ranking - Designation Criteria:

**Risk of Extirpation:** NA

**State Special Concern or NMFS Species of Concern:** NA

**Recent Significant Declines:** NA

**Regional Endemic:**

*Salvelinus alpinus oquassa*'s global geographic range is at least 90% contained within the area defined by USFWS Region 5, the Canadian Maritime Provinces, and southeastern Quebec (south of the St. Lawrence River).

Notes:

Bernatchez et. Al. 2002. Microsatellite Gene Diversity Analysis in Landlocked Arctic Char from Maine. TAFS 131:1106-1118.

[\\oit-teagfsemc11.som.w2k.state.me.us\ifw-common\2015ActionPlan\References\Fish References\Bernatchez\\_TAFS\\_02ArcticCharrGeneticDiversity.pdf](#)

**High Regional Conservation Priority:**

**American Fisheries Society, Endangered Species Committee:**

Status: Threatened, Trend: same, Listing: 134, Global Rank: G5T2Q, Comment: blueback trout

**High Climate Change Vulnerability:** NA

**Understudied rare taxa:** NA

**Historical:** NA

**Culturally Significant:** NA

#### Habitats Assigned to Arctic Charr:

Formation Name	Freshwater Aquatic
Macrogroup Name	Lakes and Ponds
Habitat System Name:	Mesotrophic or Intermediate
Habitat System Name:	Oligotrophic <b>**Primary Habitat**</b>

#### Stressors Assigned to Arctic Charr:

Stressor Priority Level based on Severity and Actionability		Moderate Severity	High Severity
	Highly Actionable	Medium-High	High
	Moderately Actionable	Medium	Medium-High
	Actionable with Difficulty	Low	Low

**IUCN Level 1 Threat** Residential and Commercial Development

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:** Tourism and Recreational Areas

**Severity:** Moderate Severity

**Actionability:** Highly actionable

**Notes:** Deboullie populations and Enchanted Pond

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#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Natural Systems Modifications

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Dams and Water Management-Use

**Severity:** Moderate Severity

**Actionability:** Moderately actionable

**Notes:** Floods Pond population only - currently adequately mitigated but will always remain a public water supply.

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Pollution

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

**Severity:** Moderate Severity

**Actionability:** Moderately actionable

**Notes:** Potential spruce budwork mitigation could pose risks to some charr habitats. Requires cooperation with Forestry and landowners to minimize impacts to charr habitats.

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Climate Change and Severe Weather

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Temperature Extremes

**Severity:** Moderate Severity

**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

**Notes:** Potential climate change effect - charr are susceptible to increasing temps and stressed at high temps over extended periods.

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Invasive and Other Problematic Species, Genes and Diseases

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Invasive Non-native-Alien Species-Diseases

**Severity:** Severe

**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

**Notes:** Probably the number one threat to char in Maine. Charr compete poorly with certain other fishes and illegal fish introductions is a serious concern.

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Problematic Species-Diseases of Unknown Origin

**Severity:** Moderate Severity

**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

**Notes:** Currently not an issue but the threat is always there

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Pollution

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Air-Bourne Pollutants

**Severity:** Moderate Severity

**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

**Notes:** Acid precipitation and atmospheric deposition of pollutants is a concern.

#### IUCN Level 1 Threat      Residential and Commercial Development

**IUCN Level 2 Threat:**      Housing and Urban Areas

**Severity:** Moderate Severity

**Actionability:** Actionable with difficulty

**Notes:** Green Lake population only

### Species Level Conservation Actions Assigned to Arctic Charr:

*\*Only species specific conservation actions that address high (red) or medium-high (orange) priority stressors are summarized here.*

Conservation Action	Category:	Biological Priority:	Type:
Investigate and describe all life history and life cycle requirements of each population to provide for maximum protection of each population	Research	high	on-going

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#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Tourism and Recreational Areas

Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Air-Bourne Pollutants

**Conservation Action**      **Category:** Habitat Management      **Biological Priority:** high      **Type:** on-going

Identify key aquatic habitats such as spawning sites and coordinate protection with federal, state, or NGOs and willing private landowners

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Tourism and Recreational Areas

Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Housing and Urban Areas

**Conservation Action**      **Category:** Habitat Management      **Biological Priority:** high      **Type:** on-going

Identify key terrestrial habitats connected or adjacent to aquatic habitats that are essential to maintaining viability of populations

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Tourism and Recreational Areas

Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Housing and Urban Areas

**Conservation Action**      **Category:** Species Management      **Biological Priority:** high      **Type:** on-going

Assess the utilization of charr by recreational anglers, including harvest rates and the attitudes of participating anglers

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Tourism and Recreational Areas

**Conservation Action**      **Category:** Species Management      **Biological Priority:** critical      **Type:** on-going

Assess population status at each location where the species is present

#### Stressor(s) Addressed By This Conservation Action

Tourism and Recreational Areas

Agricultural and Forestry Effluents

Air-Bourne Pollutants

#### Guild Level Conservation Actions:

This Species is currently not attributed to a guild.

#### Broad Taxonomic Group Conservation Actions:

Additional relevant conservation actions for this species are assigned within broader taxonomic groups in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-1.

#### Habitat Based Conservation Actions:

Additional conservation actions that may benefit habitat(s) associated with this species can be found in Maine's 2015 Wildlife Action Plan: Element 4, Table 4-15. Click on the Habitat Grouping of interest to launch a habitat based report summarizing relevant conservation actions and associated SGCN.

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*The Wildlife Action Plan was developed through a lengthy participatory process with state agencies, targeted conservation partners, and the general public. The Plan is non-regulatory. The species, stressors, and voluntary conservation actions identified in the Plan complement, but do not replace, existing work programs and priorities by state agencies and partners.*